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The Apocryphal Acts Of Andrew

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Preface

After the fall of the Berlin Wall the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen decided to intensify contacts with universities in Eastern Europe. In 1991 the then Head of the Department of Church History, Professor Hans Roldanus, took this opportunity to forge links with the Károli Gáspár University of Budapest. In the search for a common research project, which would also prove to be attractive to classicists of the Loránt-Eötvös University of Budapest, it was decided to focus on the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles. This particular choice hardly needs to be defended. The world of early Christianity is currently receiving an ever increasing attention from New Testament and patristic scholars as well as from ancient historians. Various Apocryphal Acts have recently been re-edited or are in process of being re-edited, but the contents of these Acts are still very much under-researched.

It is the object of the Dutch-Hungarian cooperation to study the major Apocryphal Acts in a series of yearly conferences, of which the proceedings are published in the series, *Studies in the Apocryphal Acts of the Apostles*. The editors in principle envisage the publication of six volumes, but they are open to further suggestions.

Following the first three volumes of the new series on the *Acts of John* (1995), the *Acts of Paul and Thecla* (1996) and the *Acts of Peter* (1998), this new volume is devoted to the *Acts of Andrew*. After a study of the relationship between the *Acts of Andrew* and the *Acts of Andrew and Matthias*, the major part of the book studies various persons, aspects and passages of the *Acts*: Aegeates, Alexandrian Christianity, eroticism, gnosticism and Neo-Platonism, magic, man, Poimandres, scatology and several triangles. The penultimate chapter analyses the relationship between the *Acts of Andrew* and the *Acts of John* and the book concludes with a close study of the important Armenian translation. As has become customary, the volume is rounded off by a bibliography and an index.

The conference which formed the basis of this book took place at the Károli Gáspár University of Budapest in the autumn of 1997. I am most grateful to my Budapest colleagues, in particular István Czachesz, for their generous reception and to the Faculty of Theology and Science of Religion of the Rijksuniversiteit Groningen for its financial support. Susan Ketner and Lautaro Roig Lanzillotta most helpfully assisted with the editing of the proceedings. Without the generous help of these colleagues and institutions it would have been impossible to prepare this volume once again in such an efficient manner in these hectic times.

Jan N. Bremmer

Groningen, July 1999